

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to call for receiving a series of sequential data elements in a predetermined order. The elements are then analyzed sequentially in that predetermined order to identify a particular data element. Then the data elements are sequentially stored in either a first or second location in the predetermined order depending on whether a data element is the predetermined data element. In this way, a predetermined data element to be removed can be removed without delaying the processing by simply storing the data sequentially either in the first or second location.

The cited reference discusses stripping VLAN data, but it does so by first storing all the frame within some type of storage. Then, it is explained that somehow or another the desired VLAN tag data is stripped from that storage.

Thus, there is no sequential storing of the data elements in the predetermined order by storing in either a first location or a second location.

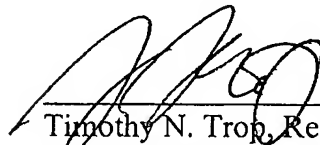
In the cited reference, initially, all the data elements are stored in the same storage in the predetermined order. Therefore, they are not stored in first and second locations depending on whether or not they are the predetermined data element.

Thereafter, the predetermined data element is stripped and it is stored separately in external memory. But since it is now stripped, the external storage is not sequentially stored in the predetermined order. The predetermined order has already been disrupted. If the claim is read that the predetermined order is now the modified order after stripping the VLAN tag data, then there is no storing in the first or second location depending on whether or not the data element is a predetermined data element.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy N. Trop', is written over a horizontal line.

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